

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 SS-15 L-03

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R 101601Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6877

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CVIS SREF RO

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN VISAS FOR ROMANIANS WITH EXIT PERMITS
FOR U.S.

REF: A) STATE 238164 B) STATE 238179

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOA HAS REAFFIRMED EARLIER POSITION
REQUIRING WOULD-BE ROMANIAN EMIGRANTS TO U.S. BE
GIVEN PRIOR WRITTEN GUARANTEE OF ENTRY TO U.S.
AND COVERAGE ALL AUSTRIAN EXPENSES BY U.S. BEFORE
AUSTRIAN TEMPORARY VISITOR VISAS FORTHCOMING.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON OCTOBER 8 EMBASSY CONSCOUN DISCUSSED SUBJECT
WITH MFA LEGAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT IN ACCORD WITH
INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTTEL B. AUSTRIAN POSITION
WAS SET FORTH AS FOLLOWS: NO AUSTRIAN VISAS WOULD BE
GIVEN TO APPROXIMATELY 130 ROMANIANS POSSESSING
PASSPORTS AND EXIT PERMITS TO FACILITATE FURTHER
PROCESSING FOR U.S. IMMIGRANT VISAS IN AUSTRIA
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UNLESS FOLLOWING CONDITIONS MET:

(A) U.S. GOVERNMENT QUARANTEES IN WRITING
THAT ALL 130 WILL BE ADMITTED TO U.S.;
(B) U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL ASSUME ALL
EXPENSES INCIDENTAL TO THEIR TEMPORARY STAY IN
AUSTRIA, I.E. FOOD, HOUSING, CLOTHING,
INCIDENTALS, TRANSPORTATION, ETC. (REAFFIRMING INFO
GIVEN RE AUSTRIAN POSITION PARA 4 REFTEL A).

2. GOA CONTINUES TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER ESSENTIALLY
U.S.-ROMANIAN PROBLEM IN WHICH GOA, THOUGH SYMPATHETIC
TO PLIGHT OF ROMANIANS, DOES NOT WISH TO BECOME
INTERMEDIARY. AUSTRIAN WARINESS REPORTEDLY DUE IN
PART TO WHAT IS FELT BY GOA TO BE ENOUGH DIFFICULT
RESETTLEMENT CASES IN AUSTRIA WITHOUT ADDING MORE AND
IN PART TO EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY
ITALY, IN HANDLING ROMANIAN EMIGRES FOUND INELIGIBLE
TO MIGRATE TO U.S. OR OTHER THIRD COUNTRY.

3. ON FORMER POINT, MFA OFFICIAL NOTED THAT AUSTRIA
IS CURRENTLY FACED WITH PROBLEM OF RESETTLING BETWEEN
200 AND 300 VIETNAMESE, AND AS THE STATE REPRESENTING
HUNGARIAN AND BULGARIAN INTERESTS IN CHILE, HAS BECOME
INVOLVED IN HANDLING MIGRATION OF CHILEAN REFUGEES TO
HUNGARY AND BULGARIA. THERE ARE ALSO STILL SOME UGANDAN
ASIANS IN ONE OF LOCAL REFUGEE CAMPS WHO AWAIT
RESETTLEMENT AND VIENNA HAS SEVERAL HUNDRED EX-SOVIET
JEWISH EMIGRES WHO, AFTER JOURNEY TO ISRAEL, DECIDED
TO RETURN TO USSR BUT ONLY GOT AS FAR AS VIENNA
BECAUSE SOVIET AUTHORITIES REFUSE TO ALLOW THEM
TO RETURN.

4. ON SECOND POINT, MFA OFFICIAL SAID AUSTRIA

WAS IN NO BETTER POSITION THAN ITALY TO COPE WITH
MIGRANTS WHO COULD NOT OR WOULD NOT PROCEED TO A
THIRD COUNTRY FOR RESETTLEMENT. MFA REPRESENTATIVE
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF ROMANIAN
EMIGRANTS DESIRING TO MIGRATE TO U.S. AND ELSEWHERE
WOULD BE LIKELY RESULT EVEN IF CONDITIONS UNDER
PARA 1 ABOVE WERE MET. IF SUCH WERE TO OCCUR,
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AUSTRIA DESIROUS THAT "MIGRANTS-IN-TRANSIT" REMAIN IN
THAT STATUS AND PROCEED IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME TO
THIRD COUNTRIES FOR RESETTLEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION,
MFA REPRESENTATIVE NOTED THAT SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES
WERE NOT HELD TO BE REFUGEES BUT MIGRANTS-IN-TRANSIT
BECAUSE THEIR DEPARTURE WAS FACILITATED BY THEIR
OWN GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT. MFA BELIEVES IT HAS TAKEN REASONABLE
POSITION ON SUBJECT AND IS WILLING TO BE HELPFUL
PROVIDED AUSTRIAN CONDITIONS ARE MET. WE DO NOT
ANTICIPATE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN GOA POSITION
AS SET FORTH TO US. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, AUSTRIANS
FEEL STRONGLY THAT THEY ARE ALREADY CARRYING AN
ONEROUS BURDEN IN FACILITATING ONWARD TRAVEL OF
SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES.
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